

## PRESIDENT OF THE TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE FOR 1993

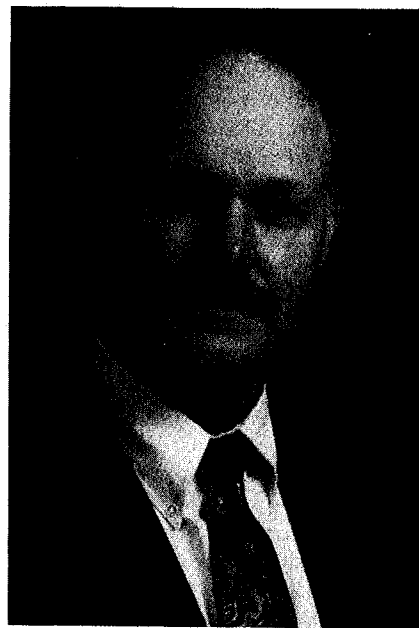
With this issue, I continue the tradition of new presidents of the Tennessee Academy of Science introducing themselves with a short biography. I grew up in rural Montgomery County, Tennessee, and attended Montgomery Central Elementary and High School. I completed the Bachelor of Science degree from Austin Peay State University in 1965. Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in zoology were earned from Mississippi State University in 1967 and 1970, respectively. My graduate studies at Mississippi State University were supported by a research assistantship and National Science Foundation Traineeships. I have been fortunate to have had a number of outstanding teachers who took special interest in my progress along the academic trail. Particularly important was my first-grade teacher (who is also my favorite aunt, Erlene Bridgers), who introduced me to the world of books and the joy of learning, Dr. David Snyder and the late Dr. Floyd Ford at Austin Peay State University who were always sources of inspiration and friendship, and Dr. Denzel Ferguson, who was the consummate major professor. I hope I carry a part of each in my teaching and relationships with students.

I am currently professor and chair of the biology department at Middle Tennessee State University. My professional interests have concentrated on vertebrate biology, with most papers and presentations on reptiles and amphibians, but with several studies on fishes, birds, and mammals.

Since joining the faculty at Middle Tennessee State University in 1969, I have taught at all levels from freshman biology to graduate courses. I have instituted and taught field courses in Herpetology, Ornithology, Mammalogy, and Vertebrate Zoology. My graduate students have been a source of renewal and inspiration, and I have directed the thesis research of 19 students who have completed the Master of Science degree. Thesis topics have ranged from fishes to white-tailed deer. Several of these students have gone on to earn terminal degrees and currently hold teaching/research positions. I have especially enjoyed teaching at Tech Aqua Biological Station for six summer sessions. I have worked on grants and contracts with the National Science Foundation, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, United States Army Corps of Engineers, and a variety of private concerns.

Since becoming department chair in 1980, my efforts have concentrated on revising and updating the academic programs of the department, and I am currently working toward greater incorporation of technology into the classroom and laboratory. I am especially interested in the use of computers and interactive learning systems.

I have been a member of the Tennessee Academy of Science since 1969 and presented papers, chaired the zoology section, paper sessions, and the ad hoc committee on journal revision, served on local arrangements committees and the executive committee of the Tennessee Academy of Science, and was elected a Fellow of the Academy in 1987. I am a member of the Association of Southeastern Biologists and have served as a member and chair of the Meritorious Teaching Awards Committee and Place of Meeting Committee. I also hold membership in the Herpetologist League, Society for the Study of Amphibians and



Dr. George Murphy

Reptiles, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, and Sigma Xi.

In addition to teaching, research, and administrative duties at Middle Tennessee State University, I have served as an evaluator for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools from the high-school and university level. I have been a member of a regional, water-quality planning board with the United States Army Corps of Engineers and currently serve on the local county and regional solid-waste planning boards. I chaired the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency committee that prepared the original list of threatened and endangered animals of Tennessee.

I have three children, Ginger M. Huffstetler, who has a degree in interior design from Middle Tennessee State University and works with a firm in Nashville, and Shannon and Patrick who are preschoolers. My wife and best friend is Kim R. Murphy, who is employed as a registered nurse. She also holds the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in biology from Middle Tennessee State University and has shared fieldwork for a variety of projects.

I am greatly honored to be President of the Academy, and, with the help of fellow officers, members of the Executive Committee, members of standing committees, and all Academy members, my mission shall be to continue the vital work of promoting the goals of the Academy.